

# Working on Fragile Roofs

## Picture This



The image shows two workers removing shingles from a sloped roof, but there are significant safety hazards present. Neither worker appears to be using fall protection equipment, such as a safety harness or guardrails, which are crucial for preventing falls when working at heights. The roof is also covered in loose and broken shingles, creating an unstable and slippery surface. Additionally, the structure of the roof may be fragile, increasing the risk of collapse or injury due to an unexpected failure of the roof decking.

When working on fragile or sloped roofs, proper safety measures must be in place to prevent falls and injuries. Workers should always wear personal fall arrest systems (harnesses with anchor points) and use guardrails or safety nets when possible. The roof should be assessed before work begins to ensure it can support weight safely, and crawl boards or roof walkways should be used to distribute weight evenly. Additionally, maintaining a clean workspace by removing loose debris as work progresses can help prevent slips and falls. Adhering to these safety standards significantly reduces risks and ensures a safer working

environment.